Building of roads in Naxal infested regions

3359. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether to improve accessibility in Naxal infested regions, the Union Government has decided to prepare an action plan to build roads in the Naxal hit States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry has been entrusted with the task of construction/development of National Highways in Naxal affected areas;

(d) if so, whether any special budgetary provision has been made for the purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) The Government has constituted a task force to promote coordinated efforts to tackle the Naxal problems in a comprehensive manner which *inter-alia* includes the development of roads in the affected areas. As such, it is too early to indicate the details of any action plan.

(c) This Ministry is responsible for the development and maintenance of the National Highways in the country including the Naxal affected areas.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Modernisation of MMD

3360. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government proposes to modernise the Mercantile Marine Department (MMD) in order to help small firms;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that age old systems and practices in MMD have affected the health of the marine sector; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Central Government to improve the functioning of the MMD in order to help the fisheries sector?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) There are no schemes in Mercantile Marine Department (MMD) at present to specifically help only the small firms. Government has initiated several steps to modernize and streamline the functioning of the MMD which have been reoriented to shift focus from the role of regulator to facilitator. Part of statutory functions has been delegated to the recognized organizations and E-Governance has been introduced to further streamline various statutory functions discharged by MMDs. In addition, the workload generated by